

SEC. 8. The Legislative, Executive, and Supreme judicial powers of the government ought to be forever separate and distinct from each other.

The Legislative, Executive and Judicial powers distinct.

SEC. 9. All power of suspending laws, or the execution of laws, by any authority, without the consent of the Representatives of the people, is injurious to their rights, and ought not to be exercised.

Of the power of suspending laws.

SEC. 10. All elections ought to be free.

Elections free.

SEC. 11. In all criminal prosecutions, every man has the right to be informed of the accusation against him and to confront the accusers and witnesses with other testimony, and to have counsel for his defence, and not be compelled to give evidence against himself, or to pay costs, jail fees, or necessary witness fees of the defence, unless found guilty.

In criminal prosecutions.

SEC. 12. No person shall be put to answer any criminal charge, except as hereinafter allowed, but by indictment, presentment, or impeachment.

Answers to criminal charges.

SEC. 13. No person shall be convicted of any crime but by the unanimous verdict of a jury of good and lawful men in open court. The Legislature may, however, provide other means of trial for petty misdemeanors, with the right of appeal.

Right of jury.

SEC. 14. Excessive bail should not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel or unusual punishments inflicted.

Excessive bail.

SEC. 15. General warrants, whereby any officer or messenger may be commanded to search suspected places, without evidence of the act committed, or to seize any person or persons not named, whose offence is not particularly described and supported by evidence, are dangerous to liberty and ought not to be granted.

General warrants.

SEC. 16. There shall be no imprisonment for debt in this State, except in cases of fraud.

Imprisonment for debt.

SEC. 17. No person ought to be taken, imprisoned or dis-seized of his freehold, liberties or privileges, or outlawed, or exiled, or in any manner deprived of his life, liberty, or property, but by the law of the land.

No person to be taken, &c., but by law of the land